

Chester Cycle 1572/2010**Play 7****Prophets and Annunciation**

Cast: ISAIAH, EXPOSITOR, EZEKIEL, JEREMIAH, JONAH, DAVID, JOEL, MICHA,
GABRIEL/ANGEL, MARY, ELIZABETH, JOSEPH

ISAIAH	I say a maiden meek and mild shall conceive and bear a child clean without works wild, to win mankind to well.	<i>well-being</i>
5	Butter and honey shall be his meat that he may all evil forget our souls out of hell to get – and called Emanuel.	<i>disregard</i>
EXPOSITOR	Lords, these words are so veray	<i>true</i>
10	that exposition, in good faye, none needs; but you know may this word 'Emanuel.' 'Emanuel' is as much to say As 'God with us night and day.'	<i>faith</i>
15	Therefore that name for ever and aye to his son accords wondrous well.	
EZEKIEL	I, Ezekiel, truly see a gate in God's house on high. Closed it was; no man came nigh. Then told an angel me: 'This gate shall no man open, iwis, for God will come and go by this. For himself it reserved is; none shall come there but he.'	<i>certainly</i>
20		
EXPOSITOR	By this gate, lords, verament	<i>truly</i>
26	I understand in my intent that way the Holy Ghost in went when God took flesh and blood in that sweet maiden Mary. She was that gate certainly for in her he lit graciously mankind to do good.	<i>understanding</i>
30		
JEREMIA	My eyes must run and sorrow aye without ceasing night and day, for my daughter truth to say shall suffer great anguish. And my folk shall do in good faith things that they do not understand to that maiden by many way and her son, certainly.	
35		
40		
EXPOSITOR	Lords, this prophecy iwis	<i>certainly</i>
45	touches the Passion, nothing amiss. For the prophet sees well this, what shall come, as I read, that a child born of a may shall suffer death, truth to say, and they that maiden shall afray shall have vengeance for that deed.	<i>maid</i> <i>distress with hostility</i>

JONAH	I, Jonah, in full great anguish to God I prayed inwardly.	
50	And he me heard through his mercy and on me did his grace. In midst of the sea cast was I, for I wrought disobediently.	
55	But in a whale's belly three days saved I was.	
EXPOSITOR	Lords, what this may signify Christ expounds openly as we read in the Evangely as Christ himself did say.	<i>gospels</i>
60	Right as Jonah was days three in the womb of a whale, so shall he be in earth lying – as was he – and rise the third day.	
DAVID	I, David, say that God Almighty from the highest heaven to earth will light, and thither again with full might both God and man in together and after come to judge the right.	
65	no man may escape from his sight nor judgment that for mankind is dight; but all then must appear.	<i>prepared</i>
70		
EXPOSITOR	Lords, this speech is so verray that to expound it to your pay it needs nothing, in good faye; this speech is so express.	<i>true profit faith clear</i>
75	Each man by it know may that of the Ascension, truth to say David prophesied in his day, as it rehearsed was.	
JOEL	I, Joel, say this certainly that my spirit send will I upon mankind mercifully from heaven sitting in see.	<i>throne</i>
81	Then shall our children prophesy; old men dream dreams certainly; young see sights that thereby many wise shall be	
85		
EXPOSITOR	Lords, this prophet speaks here in God's person, as it were, and prophesies he will appear in the spirit to Mankind.	
90	This signifies none other, in good faye, but of his deed on Whitsunday sending his Spirit, that we ever may on him have earnestly mind.	<i>faith Pentecost</i>
95		
MICAH	I, Micah, through my mind will say that man should truly find: that a child of king's kind in Bethlehem shall be born	<i>lineage</i>
100	that shall be duke to assign and deal and rule the folk of Israel; also win again mankind's heal	<i>apportion well-being</i>

that through Adam was lorn.

lost

EXPOSITOR
105 Lords, two things openly
you may see in this prophecy:
the place certifies thee truly
where Christ born will be,
and after his ending certainly
110 of his deeds of great mercy
that he should sit sovereignly
in Heaven, where is he.

115 More prophets, my lords, we might play,
but it would tarry much the day.
Therefore seven, truth to say,
are played in this place.
Two speak of his Incarnation,
another of Christ's Passion;
the fourth of the Resurrection
in figure of Jonah.

120 The fifth speaks expressly
how he from the highest heaven came
light into earth us to redeem
and after thither styed
with our race to heaven-bliss.
125 More love may he not show, truly,
but right exactly himself is
he elevated our race on high.

rose

130 The sixth shows, you may see,
his spirit to man send will he
more steadfast that they shall be
to love God evermore.
Thus believe you, as believe we,
that the acts of God, who had pity
on mankind, when he made them free,
135 are prophesied here before.

[Here Gabriel appears to Mary on the wagon]

GABRIEL Hail be thou, Mary, mother free,
full of grace. God is with thee.
Amongst all women blessed thou be,
and the fruit of thy body.

MARY
141 Ah, Lord that sits high in see,
that wondrously now marvels me!
A simple maiden of my degree
should be greeted so graciously!

on the high throne

GABRIEL
150 Mary, dread thee nought in this case.
With great God found thou has
amongst all other women special grace.
Therefore, Mary thou may
conceive and bear -- I tell thee --
155 a child, Jesus his name shall be --
so great shall never none be as he --
and he shall be called God's Son.

And our Lord God, believe thou me,
shall give him David, his father's, see;
in Jacob's house reign shall he

throne

- 160 with full might evermore.
And he that shall be born of thee,
endless life in him shall be,
so that such renown and royalty
had never none before.
- MARY
166 How may this be, thou being so bright?
In sin I know no worldly wight. *earthly person*
- GABRIEL
170 The Holy Ghost shall in thee light
from God in majesty
and shadow thee, seemly in sight.
Therefore that holy, as I have hight, *promised*
that thou shalt bear through God's might,
his Son shall called be.
- 175 Elizabeth, that barren was,
as thou may see, conceived has
in age a son through God's grace,
the herald shall be of bliss.
The sixth month is gone now again
since men called her barren;
but nothing to God's might and main
impossible is.
- 180
- MARY
185 Now since that God will it so be
and such grace hath sent to me,
blessed evermore be he;
to please him I am paid. *contented*
Lo, God's chosen meekly here --
and, Lord God, prince of power,
grant that it come about in such manner,
this word that thou hast said.
- Then the angel shall go, and Mary shall greet Elizabeth.*
- MARY
Elizabeth, cousin, God thee see. *God keep you*
- ELIZABETH
191 Mary, blessed may thou be,
and the fruit that comes from thee,
among women all.
Wondrously now marvels me
that Mary, God's mother free, *noble*
195 greets me thus, of simple degree.
Lord, how may this befall?
- 200 When thou me greeted, sweet Mary,
the child stirred in my body
for great joy of thy company
and the fruit that is in thee.
Blessed forever thou be
that lived so well and steadfastly;
for what was said to thee, lady,
fulfilled and done shall be.
- Mary, rejoicing, shall begin the canticle "Magnificat," etc.*
- MARY
205 Much has that Lord done for me,
that most is in his majesty.
All princes he passes of posty, *surpasses in power*
as appears well by this.
Therefore with full heart and free *open*

210 his name always hallowed be;
and honoured evermore be he
on high in Heaven-bliss.

Elizabeth, therefore will I
thank the Lord, king of mercy,
with joyful mirth and melody
215 and praise to his liking.
“Magnificat,” while I have time,
“anima mea dominum”
to Christ that in my womb is come,
devoutly I will sing.

“Et exultavit spiritus meus in Deo,” etc.

220 And, for my spirit rejoiced has
in God, my joy and all my grace --
because meekness he saw in me was,
his spouse of low degree --
therefore bless me well may
225 all generations for ay. *for ever*
Much had God done for me today;
his name always hallowed be,

as he is ready to do mercy
from progeny to progeny.
230 And all that fear him verily
and his will will fulfill,
he through his might gave mastery.
To disparage the proud unpityingly
with might of his heart hastily
235 at his own will.

He deposes mighty out of their place
and meek also he raised has;
hungry, needy, wanting grace
with good he hath fulfilled.
240 That mighty power he hath forsaken;
to Israel his Son he has betaken. *entrusted*
Joy to Man through him is waken,
and he has Mercy for man’s guilt.

As he spake to our fathers before,
Abraham and his seed full yore. *very long ago*
Joy to the Father evermore,
the Son and the Holy Ghost.
As it was from the beginning
and never shall have ending
250 from world to world ever continuing
Amen, God of might most. *greatest in power*

ELIZABETH Mary, now advise I that we gone *go*
to Joseph thy husband anon, *at once*
lest he to miss thee make moan; *complain*
255 for now that is most need.

MARY Elizabeth, cousin, to do so good is,
lest he suppose I have done amiss;
but good Lord that hath ordained this
will witness to my deed.

Then they shall go to Joseph.

ELIZABETH 261	Joseph, God thee save and see! Thy wife here I brought to thee.	<i>watch over you</i>
JOSEPH 265	Alas, alas, and woe is me! Who has made her with child? Well I knew an old man and a maid might not accord by no way. For many years might I not play nor work any works wild.	<i>knew; maiden be compatible make love</i>
270	Three months she hath been from me. Now has she gotten her, as I see, a great belly, like to thee, since she went away.	
275	And mine it is not, be thou bold, for I am both old and cold; these thirty winters, though I would, I can not play no play.	<i>sure might wish to have sexual intercourse</i>
280	Alas! Where might I stay or lend? For I am loath my wife to shend, therefore from her will I wend into some other place. Betray her will I nought, weakly though she have wrought, To leave her secretly is my thought, that no man may know this case.	<i>stay or dwell harm</i>
285	God, let never an old man take to wife a young woman nor set his heart her upon, lest he beguiled be.	
290	For accord there may be none, nor they may never be at one; and that is seen in many one as well as on me.	
295	Therefore, when have I slept a while my wife that me can thus beguile, I will go from her; for her to file I am loath, in good fay. This all makes me so weary that needs sleep now must I. Lord, on her have mercy for her misdeed today!	<i>deceive accuse</i>
	<i>Then he sleeps.</i>	
ANGEL 301	Joseph, put aside thy evil thought. Take Mary, thy wife, and dread thee nought, for wickedly she hath not wrought; but this is God's will.	
305	The child that she shall bear, iwiss, of the Holy Ghost begotten it is, to save Mankind that did amiss, and prophecy to fulfill.	<i>truly</i>
JOSEPH 310	Ah, now I know, Lord, it is so, I wish no man to be her foe; but while I may on Earth go, with her I will be.	<i>know</i>

315 Now Christ is in our nature light
 as the prophets before hight.
 Lord God, most of might,
 with weal I worship thee.

promised